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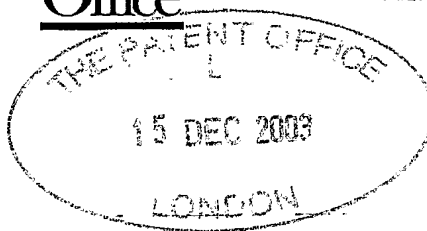


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15 DEC 2003

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0329012.9

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Cambridge University Technical Services Limited  
The Old Schools  
Cambridge  
Cambridgeshire CB2 1TS

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

6956809004

4. Title of the invention

Hologram Viewing Device

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Kilburn & Strode  
20 Red Lion Street  
London  
WC1R 4PJ

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Description 18

Claim(s) 6

Abstract

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## **Holographic Apparatus and Method**

The present invention relates to a method of displaying a holographically generated video image composed of plural video frames, and to apparatus  
5 constructed and arranged to display a holographically generated video image having plural video frames

Holographically generated 2D video images are known to possess significant advantages over their conventionally projected counterparts, especially in terms  
10 of definition and efficiency. However, the computational complexity of the current hologram generation algorithms preclude their use in real-time applications. Furthermore, even if the existing algorithms were fast enough, the images generated by them are not of sufficient quality for use in a display application.

15 Traditionally, hologram generation algorithms proceed by finding holograms that minimise the mean-squared error (MSE) between the desired image and the image produced (the replay field, or RPF) when the hologram is illuminated with coherent light. The inventors have shown that human subjects consider  
20 lower signal and noise variance in the RPF to be far more important in display applications. Using this result, a new algorithm optimised to the psychometrically-determined perceptual measure of image quality has been developed.

25 An object of some embodiments of the invention is to achieve high quality real-time holographic video projection.

An object of some embodiments of the invention is to provide an algorithm for forming a CGH, which algorithm involves a low number of computationally intensive steps.

- 5     An object of some embodiments of the invention is to provide a fast algorithm for forming a CGH, which algorithm can be implemented on relatively unsophisticated hardware, such as is currently commercially available.

10     According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a method of displaying a holographically-generated video image composed of plural video frames, the method comprising providing for each frame period a respective sequential plurality of holograms and displaying the holograms of the plural video frames for viewing the replay field thereof, whereby the noise variance of each frame is perceived as attenuated by averaging across said plurality.

15

In an embodiment the providing step comprises generating each hologram by implementing an algorithm having a single computationally intensive step.

In an embodiment the single step is a Fourier transform step

20

In an embodiment the algorithm is arranged, for each said plurality of pixellated holograms, to a) form first data having amplitude equal to the amplitude of the desired pixel and identically distributed uniformly random phase; b) inverse Fourier transform the first data to provide second data; c) shift the second data  
25     in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a third data set in which the phase of each data point is small; d) form as a fourth data set the

magnitude of the third data set; and e) binarise the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as a said hologram.

5 In an embodiment the step of binarisation comprises thresholding about the median of the fourth data set whereby the fifth data set has dc balance and low reconstruction error.

10 In an embodiment the display device comprises a spatial light modulator having a pixellated phase mask imposing phase shifts of substantially 0 and  $\pi/2$ , wherein the effect of the display device showing a binary hologram in co-operation with the two-phase phase mask simulates a four-phase modulation, wherein each pixel has one of the values  $[1, j, -1-j]$ . Other phase shifts would be possible provided a difference of substantially  $\pi/2$  or  $n \pi/2$  is present between the two levels

15 In an embodiment the pixel values of the phase mask are spatially random.

In an embodiment step b) comprises inverse Fourier transforming and applying the phase mask values to the first data to provide the second data.

20 An alternative family of embodiments uses a Fresnel transformation instead of a Fourier transform.

Some embodiments are restricted to 2D holograms; others provide 3D.

25 According to another aspect of the invention there is provided apparatus constructed and arranged to display a holographically-generated video image

having plural video frames, the apparatus having processing means arranged to provide for each frame period a respective sequential plurality of holograms and a display device arranged to receive the sequential plurality of holograms of each frame and to display the holograms of the plural video frames of the video  
5 image for viewing the replay field thereof, whereby the noise variance of each frame is perceived as attenuated by averaging across said plurality of holograms.

In an embodiment the processing means is arranged to generate each said  
10 hologram by implementing an algorithm having a single computationally intensive step.

In an embodiment the single step is a Fourier transform step

15 In an embodiment the algorithm is arranged, for each said plurality of pixellated holograms, to a) form first data having amplitude equal to the amplitude of the desired image pixels and identically distributed uniformly random phase; b) inverse Fourier transform the first data to provide second data; c) shift the second data in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a  
20 third data set in which the phase of each data point is small; d) form as a fourth data set the magnitude of the third data set; and e) binarise the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as a said hologram.

In an embodiment the step of binarisation comprises thresholding about the median of the fourth data set whereby the fifth data set has dc balance and low  
25 reconstruction error.



In an embodiment the display device comprises a spatial light modulator having a pixellated phase mask imposing phase shifts of substantially 0 and  $\pi/2$ , wherein the effect of the display device showing a binary hologram in co-operation with the two-phase phase mask simulates a four-phase modulation, wherein each pixel has one of the values  $[1, j, -1, -j]$ . Other phase shifts would be possible provided a difference of substantially  $\pi/2$  or  $n \pi/2$  is present between the two levels

In an embodiment the pixel values of the phase mask are spatially random.

10

In an embodiment step b) comprises inverse Fourier transforming and applying the phase mask values to the first data to provide the second data.

15

Embodiments of the hologram generation algorithm / method can be run sufficiently fast to provide a number, e.g. 40, holograms per video frame, where a video frame is 1/25 second. It has been found that there is a statistical result that the noise variance of the time average of  $N$  images, each with independent noise of some arbitrary distribution, falls as  $1/N$ . Embodiments of a first algorithm embodying the invention can therefore generate, in real time, a set of  $N$  holograms per video frame ('subframes') to produce RPFs with independent noise. If the frames are displayed quickly enough then the limited temporal bandwidth of the eye is exploited to impart the effect of noise variance attenuation due to averaging. Embodiments of a second algorithm can produce  $2N$  holograms from  $N$  Fourier steps.

20

25

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a method of providing a pixellated hologram comprising forming first data having amplitude

equal to the amplitude of the desired image pixels and having identically distributed uniformly random phase; inverse Fourier transforming the first data to provide second data; shifting the second data in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a third data set in which the phase of each data point is small; forming as a fourth data set the magnitude of the third data set; and binarising the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as said hologram.

According to a yet further aspect of the invention there is provided a method of providing a pixellated hologram comprising forming first data having amplitude equal to the amplitude of the desired image pixels and having identically distributed uniformly random phase; inverse Fresnel transforming the first data to provide second data; shifting the second data in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a third data set in which the phase of each data point is small; forming as a fourth data set the magnitude of the third data set; and binarising the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as said hologram.

According to still another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of generating a pixellated holograms, the method comprising forming a first data set, the members of said first data set having respective amplitudes equal to the amplitudes of respective desired pixels and identically distributed uniformly random phase; performing an inverse Fourier transform on the first data set to provide second data set; shifting the second data set in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a third data set in which the phase of each data point is small; forming as a fourth data set the magnitude of the third data

set; and binarising the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as a said hologram.

5 The step of binarisation may comprise thresholding about the median of the fourth data set whereby the fifth data set has dc balance and low reconstruction error.

10 The display device may comprise a spatial light modulator having a pixellated phase mask imposing phase shifts of substantially 0 and  $\pi/2$ , wherein the effect of the display device showing a binary hologram in co-operation with the two-phase phase mask simulates a four-phase modulation, wherein each pixel has one of the values  $[1, j, -1, -j]$ . Other phase shifts would be possible provided a difference of substantially  $\pi/2$  or  $n\pi/2$  is present between the two levels

15 The pixel values of the phase mask may be spatially random.

The method may further comprise applying the phase mask values to the first data to provide the second data.

20 The image may be a 2 dimensional image. Alternatively the image may be three dimensional.

Exemplary embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which

25 Figure 1 shows a block schematic drawing of apparatus embodying the invention;

Figure 2a shows a conjugate image present due to binary SLM;

Figure 2b shows the conjugate image eliminated with phase mask;

Figure 2c shows the conjugate image eliminated using Fresnel holography

Figure 3a shows an exemplary replay field produced by an embodiment of a method of the invention;

5 Figure 3b shows a replay field similar to that of Figure 3a but produced by direct binary search

Figure 4 shows a partial cross-sectional view through an SLM having a pixellated phase mask imposing phase shifts of 0 and  $\pi/2$

10

Referring to Figure 1, a signal (2) representing an  $m \times m$  pixel input intensity field  $T_{xy}$ , generated directly from a video signal is input to a processing device (20) having a first processing block (1). The processing device (20) in this embodiment includes a field programmable gate array (FPGA) running code to enable it to perform the required functions. In other embodiments an ASIC is used and in yet others a programmed general purpose computer is used. The first processing block (1) for each said plurality of pixellated holograms, forms  
15 a first data set  $T_{xy}^{(n)}$  at an output (3) by the expression  $T_{xy}^{(n)} = \sqrt{T_{xy}} \exp(j\Phi_{xy}^{(n)})$ , so that the first data set  $T_{xy}^{(n)}$  has amplitude equal to the amplitude of the desired  
20 pixel and identically distributed (i.i.d.) uniformly random phase.

The first data set (3) is applied to a second processing block (4) which forms a second data set  $G_{xy}^{(n)}$  such that  $G_{xy}^{(n)} = F^{-1}[T_{xy}^{(n)}]$  at output (5) where  $F^{-1}$  represents the 2D inverse Fourier transform.

25

The second data set is then shifted by third processing block (6) in the real direction in the complex plane (i.e. to the right) sufficiently to form a third data set (7) in which the phase of each data point is small. The third processing block (6) forms  $R$  as the smallest positive real such that  $|G_{xy}^{(n)}| \leq R \quad \forall x, y, n$ . and adds a

5 real  $\alpha$  where  $\alpha \gg R$  to each data item of the second set to form a third set  $\alpha + G_{xy}^{(n)}$  at output (7)

The third data set at output (7) is applied to a magnitude-forming fifth processing block (8) performing the function  $M_{xy}^{(n)} = |\alpha + G_{xy}^{(n)}|$  such that  $M_{xy}^{(n)}$  is  
10 output as a fourth data set (9).

The fourth data is then supplied to a binarisation stage (10) performing the function  $H_{xy}^{(n)} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } M_{xy}^{(n)} < Q^{(n)} \\ 1 & \text{if } M_{xy}^{(n)} \geq Q^{(n)} \end{cases}$  where  $Q^{(n)} = \text{median}(M_{xy}^{(n)})$  to form a fifth  
15 data set (11) for display as a said hologram.

The fifth data set (11) is supplied to a ferroelectric liquid crystal SLM (12) for display and viewing. Although a ferroelectric liquid crystal spatial light modulator is used in this embodiment other devices, for example including nematic SLMs, OASLMs (optically-addressed spatial light modulators), and  
20 also more exotic types of liquid crystal displays such as electroclinic, pi cell, flexoelectric, antiferroelectric, ferrielectric, V-shaped switching cells, and guest-host dye cells may be substituted, in addition to non-liquid crystal technologies such as OLED displays, vacuum fluorescent displays, electroluminescent displays, MEMS devices such as DMDs,. The device may  
25 be transmissive or reflective.

The presence of only a single computationally intensive step , i.e. the inverse Fourier transform, allows current hardware to generate in real time plural, e.g. 40, holograms per video frame.

- 5 In a second embodiment, a modified process generates sets of  $2N$  distinct  $m \times m$  binary phase holograms  $H_{xy}^{(n)}$ , each of which produces a replay field that approximates the same target image. The key feature of the process is that the noise fields produced by each hologram are i.i.d., satisfying the conditions above.

10

The process begins with the specification of a target intensity image  $T_{xy}$  and proceeds as follows:

1. Let  $T_{xy}^{(n)} = \sqrt{T_{xy}} \exp(j\Phi_{xy}^{(n)})$  where  $\Phi_{xy}^{(n)}$  is uniformly distributed between 0 and  $2\pi$  for  $1 \leq n \leq N, 1 \leq x, y \leq m$
- 15 2. Let  $G_{xy}^{(n)} = F^{-1}[T_{xy}^{(n)}]$  where  $F^{-1}$  represents the 2D inverse Fourier transform operator, for  $1 \leq n \leq N$
3. Let  $M_{xy}^{(n)} = \Re\{G_{xy}^{(n)}\}$  for  $1 \leq n \leq N$
4. Let  $M_{xy}^{(n+N)} = \Im\{G_{xy}^{(n)}\}$  for  $1 \leq n \leq N$
- 20 5. Let  $H_{xy}^{(n)} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } M_{xy}^{(n)} < Q^{(n)} \\ 1 & \text{if } M_{xy}^{(n)} \geq Q^{(n)} \end{cases}$  where  $Q^{(n)} = \text{median}(M_{xy}^{(n)})$  and  $1 \leq n \leq 2N$

Steps 3 and 5 of this process are exactly equivalent to steps 3, 4 and 5 of the first embodiment, but an additional step (number 4 in this process) is added.

The holograms  $M_{xy}^{(n)}$  produced here are thus exactly the same as the holograms  $M_{xy}^{(n)}$  produced by the original algorithm, only here the holograms  $M_{xy}^{(n+N)}$  are also provided “for-free” —i.e. without a need for further Fourier transform step.

5 Step 1 forms  $N$  targets  $T_{xy}^{(n)}$  equal to the amplitude of the supplied intensity target  $T_{xy}$ , but with i.i.d. uniformly-random phase. Step 2 computes the  $N$  corresponding full complex Fourier transform holograms  $G_{xy}^{(n)}$ . Steps 3, 4 compute the real part and imaginary part of the holograms, respectively. Binarisation of each of the real and imaginary parts of the holograms is then  
10 performed in step 5: thresholding around the median of  $M_{xy}^{(n)}$  ensures equal numbers of -1 and 1 points are present in the holograms, achieving DC balance (by definition) and also minimal reconstruction error. Hence, for one Fourier transform operation performed upon  $T_{xy}$ , two binary phase holograms  $H_{xy}$  are provided as opposed to one hologram obtained using the process of the first  
15 embodiment.

Any purely real hologram (such as a binary phase hologram) produces a conjugate image in the replay field, reducing the usable area and hence the efficiency by half.

20

The conjugate image can be removed by generating a four-phase hologram where each pixel takes one of the values  $[1, j, -1, -j]$ , although such holograms cannot be displayed on an inherently binary device such as a ferroelectric SLM. More than two phase levels can be displayed on a nematic liquid crystal device,  
25 but these are currently orders of magnitude too slow for high frame-rate applications, as provided by the algorithm described above.

However by etching a pixellated phase mask of pixel values 1 and  $j$  (thus imposing phase shifts of 0 and  $\pi/2$  respectively) on the top surface of a binary-phase SLM the conjugate image can be removed. This is achieved by randomly  
 5 setting the pixel values of the mask such that the net modulation imposed by the combination of the SLM and phase mask lie in the set  $[1, j, -1, -j]$ , which provides the extra degree of freedom required to remove the conjugate image (at the expense of additional RPF noise), despite the fact that the SLM itself is binary. This technique has been used in correlator design and is here applied to the  
 10 display application. Although the pixel values of the mask are random, and thus have "dc balance" in that there are statistically equal numbers of each value of phase shift, the mask itself is fixed and the pixel position of each value of phase shift is known.

15 In other embodiments, a distribution of phase shifts that is not completely random is used.

To modify the algorithm described above to use a phase mask, the second block (4) is modified to provide a  $G_{xy}^{(n)}$  such that

$$20 \quad G_{xy}^{(n)} = \frac{F^{-1}[T_{xy}^{(n)}]}{P_{xy}}$$

where  $P_{xy}$  defines the phase mask, which has been generated randomly so that each pixel has an equal probability of taking the value 1 or  $j$ .

Referring to Figure 4, a cross-sectional view through a part of a binary SLM  
 25 (100) is shown. The SLM (100) has plural pixels (120-123) in the drawing although it will be understood that the pixels are in fact arranged in a two



dimensional matrix. Each pixel (120-123) is capable of being electrically controlled so as to provide a phase shift of 0 or  $\pi$ . Each pixel (120-123) of the SLM has a respective phase-mask pixel (130-133) overlying it and disposed in correspondence with it. As will be seen in the Figure the first, third and fourth  
5 phase mask pixels (130, 132, 133) have a relatively low thickness whereas the second phase mask pixel (131) has a relatively high thickness. The thickness difference is selected on the basis of the material of the phase mask and on the basis of the wavelength of the light used. The selection is such that the light passing through the thicker pixels (131) is subject to a phase shift of  $\pi$  more  
10 than the light passing through the thinner pixels (130,132,133).

Where the SLM or like device is reflective, the light will pass twice through the phase mask, and corresponding changes in thickness will be needed.

15 In the present embodiment the phase mask is formed as a coating on the SLM (100). It would of course be possible to use other arrangements for example use two substantially identical SLMs with one providing a data display and the other forming the phase mask.

20 To evaluate the efficacy of this technique in simulation, holograms were generated for the two test patterns with each hologram being replicated twice, the replication step being performed between steps 2 and 3 in the algorithm. The replay fields formed demonstrated that the conjugate image is removed effectively, and simulations also show that the use of the phase mask does not  
25 significantly degrade the signal-to-noise ratio of the RPF produced.

The foregoing discussion relates to producing desired 2D structure in the far field using Fourier holograms. The method can also be extended to produce Fresnel holograms for the production of structure in the near field, which is particularly useful for a lensless optical configuration. Fresnel holography offers a further advantage of enabling lensless projection, since the hologram itself encodes the focussing element, giving an obvious weight, cost and size saving over conventional projective display systems.

The discrete Fresnel transform is closely related to the Fourier transform, and describes the near field  $T_{xy}$  produced at distance  $f$  by the hologram  $G_{xy}$  (of dimensions  $X$  by  $Y$  and corresponding pixel sizes  $\Delta_x$  and  $\Delta_y$ ) when illuminated with coherent light of wavelength  $\lambda$ . When imaging not too close to the hologram the transform is given by

$$T_{xy} = \frac{j}{\lambda f} \exp \left( -j\pi\lambda f \left[ \frac{x^2}{X^2\Delta_x^2} + \frac{y^2}{Y^2\Delta_y^2} \right] \right) \times F \left[ G_{xy} \exp \left( \frac{-j\pi}{\lambda f} (x^2\Delta_x^2 + y^2\Delta_y^2) \right) \right]$$

with corresponding inverse transform

$$G_{xy} = \exp \left( \frac{j\pi}{\lambda f} (x^2\Delta_x^2 + y^2\Delta_y^2) \right) \times F^{-1} \left[ T_{xy} \frac{\lambda f}{j} \exp \left( j\pi\lambda f \left[ \frac{x^2}{X^2\Delta_x^2} + \frac{y^2}{Y^2\Delta_y^2} \right] \right) \right]$$

Hence if processing block (4) provides a  $G_{xy}^{(n)}$  such that

$$G_{xy} = \exp \left( \frac{j\pi}{\lambda f} (x^2\Delta_x^2 + y^2\Delta_y^2) \right) \times F^{-1} \left[ T_{xy} \frac{\lambda f}{j} \exp \left( j\pi\lambda f \left[ \frac{x^2}{X^2\Delta_x^2} + \frac{y^2}{Y^2\Delta_y^2} \right] \right) \right]$$

Fresnel holograms are generated that form the target image at the specified distance  $f$  from the hologram.

The techniques described may be modified for the generation of 3D holograms for 3D holographic video display. A 3D hologram of an object is simply a recording of the complex electromagnetic field (produced by light scattered by the object) at a plane in front of the object. By Huygens' principle, if the EM field distribution on a plane  $P$  is known, Huygens wavelets can be propagated through space to evaluate the field at any point in 3D space. As such, the plane hologram encodes all the information necessary to view the object from any position and angle in front of the plane and hence is, in theory, optically indistinguishable from the object. In practice, limitations in the pixel resolution of the recording medium restricts the viewing angle  $\theta$  which, as in the 2D case, varies inversely with the pixel size  $\Delta$

Consider a plane, perpendicular to the  $z$ -axis, intersecting the origin, and one point source emitter of wavelength  $\lambda$  and amplitude  $A$  at position  $(X, Y, Z)$  behind it. The field  $F$  present at position  $(x, y)$  on the plane – i.e. the hologram – is given by

$$F(x, y) = \frac{ZA}{j\lambda r^2} \exp\left(\frac{2\pi j}{\lambda} r\right) \text{ with } r = \sqrt{(x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2 + Z^2}$$

If a 3D scene is regarded as  $M$  sources of amplitude  $A_i$  at  $(X_i, Y_i, Z_i)$ , the linear nature of EM propagation results in the total field hologram  $F$  being

$$F(x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{Z_i A_i}{j\lambda r_i^2} \exp\left(\frac{2\pi j}{\lambda} r_i\right) \text{ with } r_i = \sqrt{(x - X_i)^2 + (y - Y_i)^2 + Z_i^2}$$

If  $F(x, y)$  is to be sampled over the region  $x_{\min} \leq x \leq x_{\max}$ ,  $y_{\min} \leq y \leq y_{\max}$  to form an  $m \times m$  hologram  $F_{xy}$ , there is obtained:

$$F_{xy} = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{Z_i A_i}{j\lambda r_i^2} \exp\left(\frac{2\pi j}{\lambda} r_i\right)$$

$$\text{with } r_i = \sqrt{\left(x_{\min} + x \frac{x_{\max} - x_{\min}}{m} - X_i\right)^2 + \left(y_{\min} + y \frac{y_{\max} - y_{\min}}{m} - Y_i\right)^2 + Z_i^2}$$

There is thus presented an algorithm (with an SLM phase mask) that generates  $N$  full-parallax 3D holograms  $H_{xy}^{(n)}$  for a given array of point sources, as above.

Let  $F_{xy}^{(n)} = \sum_{i=1}^M \frac{Z_i A_i}{j \lambda r_i^2} \exp\left(\Phi_i^{(n)} j + \frac{2\pi j}{\lambda} r_i\right)$  with  $r_i$  as above where  $\Phi_i^{(n)}$  is uniformly distributed between 0 and  $2\pi$  for  $1 \leq n \leq N, 1 \leq i \leq M$

5

Let  $G_{xy}^{(n)} = \frac{F_{xy}^{(n)}}{P_{xy}}$ , where  $P_{xy}$  is the precomputed  $[1, j]$  phase mask as described in the previous section

Let  $R$  be the smallest positive real such that  $|G_{xy}^{(n)}| \leq R \quad \forall x, y, n$ .  $R$  exists since each value taken by  $G_{xy}^{(n)}$  is finite and so  $G_{xy}^{(n)}$  has compact support

10

Let  $M_{xy}^{(n)} = |\alpha + G_{xy}^{(n)}|$ , where  $\alpha$  is real and very much greater than  $R$ .

Let  $H_{xy}^{(n)} = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } M_{xy}^{(n)} < Q^{(n)} \\ 1 & \text{if } M_{xy}^{(n)} \geq Q^{(n)} \end{cases}$  where  $Q^{(n)} = \text{median}(M_{xy}^{(n)})$

To test this algorithm, there is considered the calculation of  $N = 8$  holograms of resolution  $512 \times 512$  and size  $2\text{mm} \times 2\text{mm}$  centred at the origin of plane  $P$ , giving a pixel size of  $\Delta = 4\mu\text{m}$  and hence a viewing angle of around 9 degrees under coherent red illumination ( $\lambda = 632\text{nm}$ ). The 3D scene used was a set of 944 point sources that formed a wireframe cuboid of dimensions  $12\text{cm} \times 12\text{cm} \times 18\text{cm}$ , located at a distance of 1.91m from the plane.

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The simulated RPFs produced were calculated by propagating Huygens wavelets from the  $N$  holograms in turn through a pinhole aperture  $K$  onto a virtual screen (a plane perpendicular to the line from the centre of the cube to

the pinhole), and recording the time-averaged intensity distribution on the screen.

Unfortunately, in contrast with algorithm described for 2D, the computation of  
5 step one in the 3D algorithm above may not be realisable in real time with  
current consumer hardware for a scene with anything but a very small number  
of point sources. However, the required holograms generated by the algorithm  
can be computed and stored for recall in real time. Much more powerful  
computation may be needed for real-time three-dimensional hologram  
10 generation, although it has been found possible to optimise the calculations in a  
way that suggests that such computation may not be needed.

The holographic projection method detailed above is realisable in hardware. At  
the time of writing, commercially available FPGAs (field programmable gate  
15 arrays) can be programmed using commercially available code to compute  $512 \times 512$  Fourier transforms at a rate of at least 2400 frames/sec, sufficient for full-  
colour video (25 frames/sec, 3 colour planes,  $N = 32$ ). For the display device, a  
commercially available SLM can display a sufficient frame rate at at least  $512 \times 512$  resolution. It is possible to use separate illumination devices where  
20 multiple colours are needed—for example for a full colour display. Alternatively  
a single device capable of multiple colour output can be used instead.

Two significant design issues have been identified.

Firstly, since optical loss in the phase holographic element is small and total  
25 energy is conserved, nearly all of the incident optical energy is routed into the  
RPF. Therefore, a target RPF with fewer “on” points will appear brighter than  
one with many, assuming total energy is distributed approximately evenly

between each "on" pixel in the RPF. As a result, a controller causes the intensity of the source to be modulated correspondingly to achieve a uniform overall brightness between frames, in accordance with the number of "on" points in each frame. Direct amplitude modulation of a laser is undesirable due to nonlinearity, and thus in an embodiment such amplitude modulation is replaced by pulse-width modulation within each 400  $\mu$ s pulse interval with a duty cycle proportional to the desired brightness to achieve the required average intensity.

Secondly, a design issue comes from the relationship between RPF size and illumination wavelength. This is overcome in one embodiment by a lens system corrected for chromatic aberration at the three wavelengths of the sources and in another by using Fresnel holography to build compensation for this effect directly into the holograms.

The results of the approach of the invention show in simulation a RPF exhibiting a noise energy of two orders of magnitude lower than DBS, with calculation times six orders of magnitude faster. Experimental results are in agreement with the theory, and show a previously undemonstrated level of contrast and accuracy for a holographically generated image even with a test device that is a very old design of ferroelectric SLM.

Although embodiments of the invention have been described, these are not limiting on the invention itself. This extends to the full scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of displaying a holographically generated video image comprising plural video frames, the method comprising providing for each frame period a respective sequential plurality of holograms and displaying the holograms of the plural video frames for viewing the replay field thereof, whereby the noise variance of each frame is perceived as attenuated by averaging across said plurality of holograms.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the providing step comprises generating each hologram by implementing an algorithm having a single computationally intensive step.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the single step is a Fourier transform step
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the algorithm is arranged, for each said plurality of pixellated holograms, to:-
  - a) form first data having amplitude equal to the amplitude of the desired pixel and identically distributed uniformly random phase;
  - b) inverse Fourier transform the first data to provide second data;
  - c) shift the second data in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a third data set in which the phase of each data point is small;
  - d) form as a fourth data set the magnitude of the third data set; and
  - e) binarise the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as a said hologram.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the step of binarisation comprises thresholding about the median of the fourth data set whereby the fifth data set has dc balance and low reconstruction error.
- 5 6. A method according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the display device comprises a spatial light modulator having a pixellated phase mask imposing phase shifts of 0 and  $\pi/2$ , wherein the algorithm is arranged to generate a four-phase hologram, wherein each pixel has one of the values  $[1, j, -1, -j]$
- 10 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the pixel values of the phase mask are spatially random.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein step b) comprises inverse Fourier transforming and applying the phase mask values to the first data to  
15 provide the second data.
9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the image is a 2 dimensional image.
- 20 10. A method according to claim 3 or any claim dependent upon claim 3, further comprising forming both the real and imaginary parts of the inverse Fourier transformed first data to form two second data sets, whereby two holograms are created per Fourier transform step
- 25 11. Apparatus constructed and arranged to display a holographically generated video image having plural video frames, the apparatus having processing means arranged to provide for each frame period a respective



sequential plurality of holograms and a display device arranged to receive the sequential plurality of holograms of each frame and to display the holograms of the plural video frames of the video image for viewing the replay field thereof, whereby the noise variance of each frame is perceived as attenuated by averaging across said plurality of holograms.

12. Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the processing means is arranged to generate each said hologram by implementing an algorithm having a single computationally intensive step.

13. Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the single step is a Fourier transform step

14. Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the algorithm is arranged, for each said plurality of pixellated holograms, to:-

a) form first data having amplitude equal to the amplitude of the desired pixel and identically distributed uniformly random phase;

b) inverse Fourier transform the first data to provide second data;

c) shift the second data in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a third data set in which the phase of each data point is small;

d) form as a fourth data set the magnitude of the third data set; and

e) binarise the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as a said hologram.

15. Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein the step of binarisation comprises thresholding about the median of the fourth data set whereby the fifth data set has dc balance and low reconstruction error.
- 5 16. Apparatus according to claim 11,12 or 13, wherein the display device comprises a spatial light modulator having a pixellated phase mask imposing phase shifts of 0 and  $\pi/2$ , wherein the algorithm is arranged to generate a four-phase hologram, wherein each pixel has one of the values  $[I, j, -I-j]$
- 10 17. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the pixel values of the phase mask are spatially random.
18. Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein step b) comprises inverse Fourier transforming and applying the phase mask values to the first data to  
15 provide the second data.
19. Apparatus according to claim 14 or any claim dependent upon claim 14, further comprising forming both the real and imaginary parts of the inverse Fourier transformed first data to form two second data sets, whereby two  
20 holograms are created per Fourier transform step.
20. A method of generating a pixellated holograms, the method comprising forming a first data set, the members of said first data set having respective amplitudes equal to the amplitudes of respective desired pixels  
25 and identically distributed uniformly random phase;  
performing an inverse Fourier transform on the first data set to provide second data set;

shifting the second data set in the real direction in the complex plane sufficiently to form a third data set in which the phase of each data point is small;

- 5            forming as a fourth data set the magnitude of the third data set; and  
          binarising the fourth data set to form a fifth data set for display as a said  
hologram.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the step of binarisation  
comprises thresholding about the median of the fourth data set whereby the fifth  
10 data set has dc balance and low reconstruction error.

22. A method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the display device  
comprises a spatial light modulator having a pixellated phase mask imposing  
phase shifts of 0 and  $\pi/2$ , wherein the algorithm is arranged to generate a four-  
15 phase hologram, wherein each pixel has one of the values  $[1, j, -1, -j]$

23. A method according to claim 20, wherein the pixel values of the phase mask  
are spatially random.

- 20 24. A method according to claim 20 or 21, further comprising applying the  
phase mask values to the first data to provide the second data.

- 25 25. A method according to any of claims 20-24, wherein the image is a 2  
dimensional image.

26. A method according to any of claims 20-25, further comprising forming  
both the real and imaginary parts of the inverse Fourier transformed first data to

form two second data sets, whereby two holograms are created per Fourier transform step.

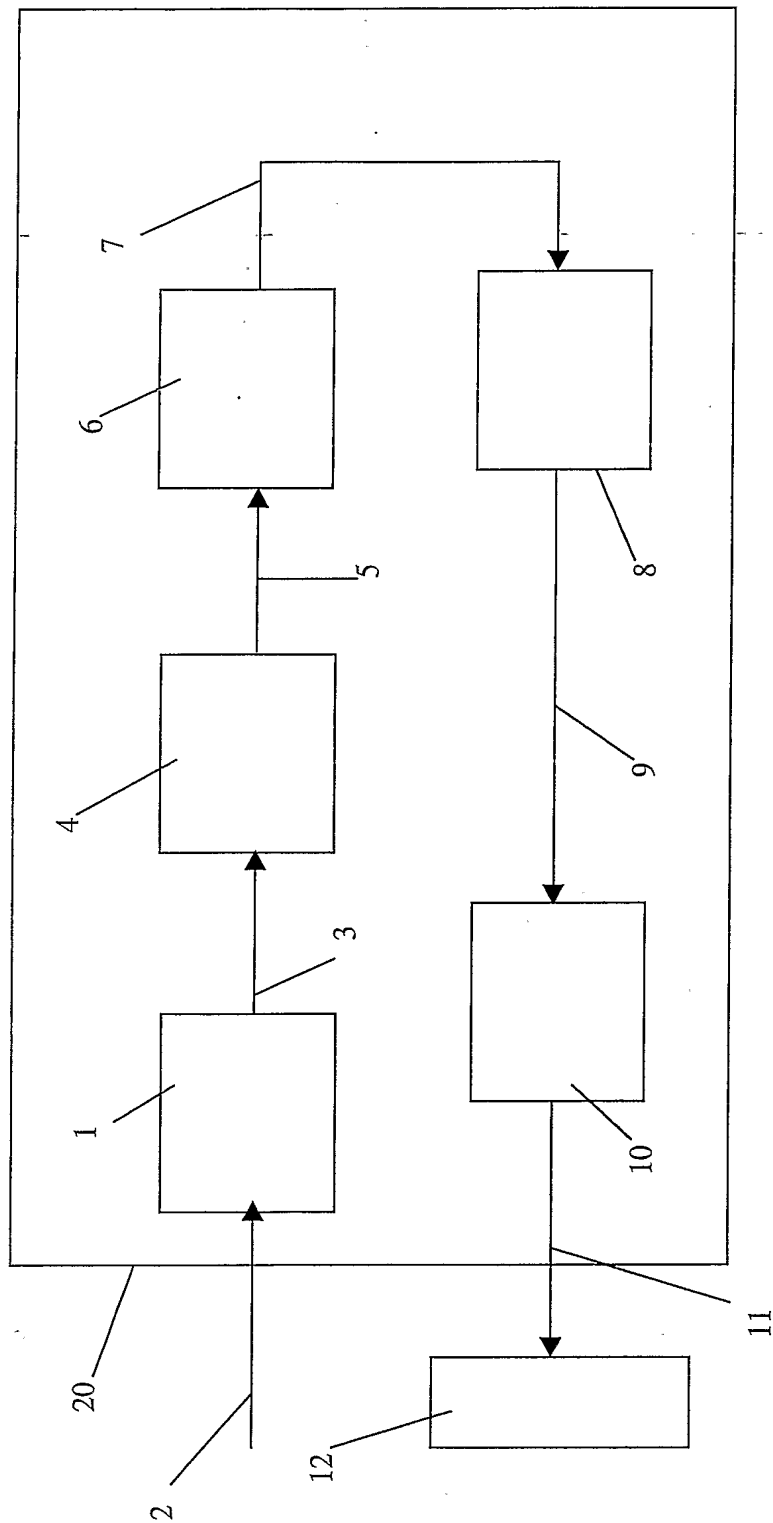


Figure 1



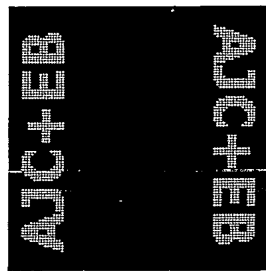


Figure 2a



Figure 2b



Figure 2c





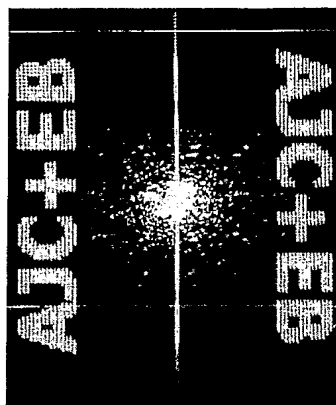


Figure 3a

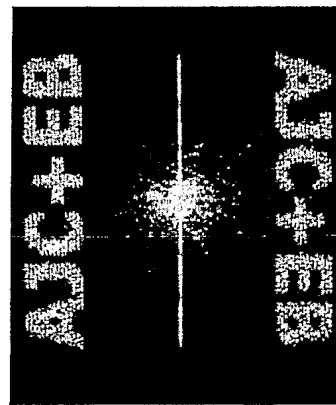


Figure 3b



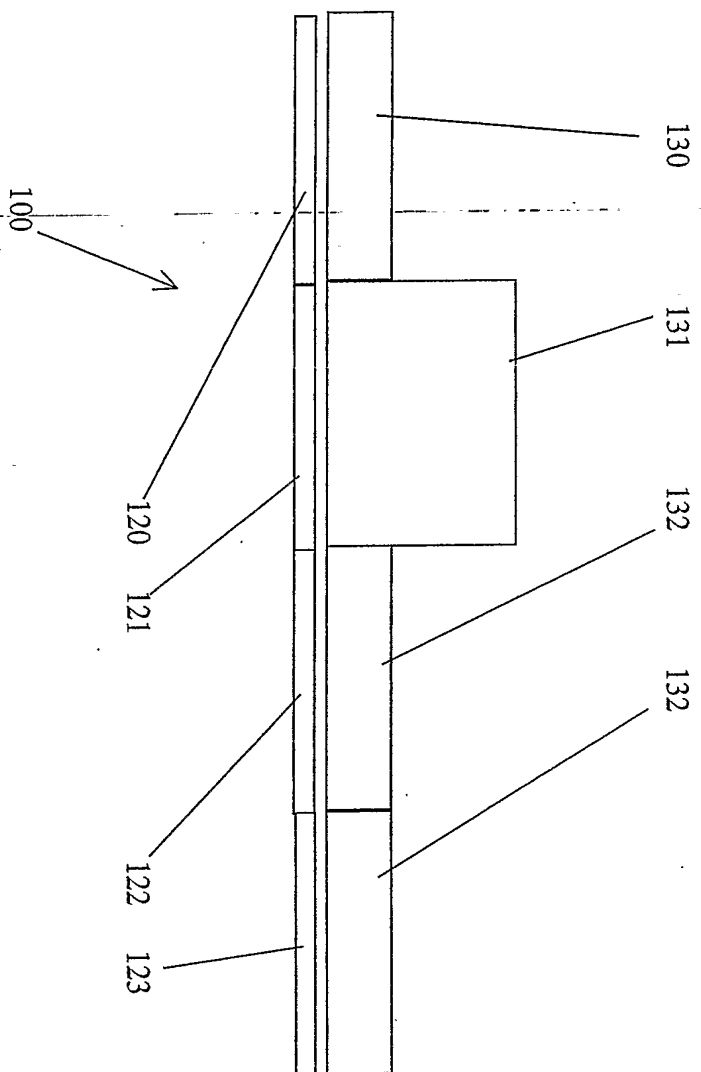


Figure 4

PCT/GB2004/005253

